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question made this short journey instead of having been shipped halfway across the continent to infect some other locality.

The Public Health Service has instituted measures looking to the systematic examination of these shipments with the view of determining the relative frequency of such occurrences. When it is remembered that one infected rat is quite sufficient to reproduce the disease in any locality to which it may gain access, the importance of this circumstance can hardly be overestimated.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.

ITS RELATION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Foot-and-mouth disease is essentially a disorder of certain domesticated animals, chiefly cattle and hogs, more rarely sheep and goats, and exceptionally dogs and cats. The control and eradication of the disease is a function of the authorities in charge of communicable diseases in animals—in this country, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The measures which they find necessary to employ are most drastic, but are followed apparently by results which justify the large expense involved.

Although European investigators have shown that it is possible to produce artificially a strong, though possibly rather transient, immunity, the procedure has not as yet been put upon a practicable economic basis. Until the ultramicroscopic cause of this disease shall have been cultivated upon artificial medium there seems little likelihood of improvement upon the present eradication measures, which involve wholesale destruction of infected herds, and onerous quarantine procedure. The spread of the disease is attributed in no small part to the carrying of the infection on the hands or clothing of persons who examine, milk, or otherwise come in contact with diseased animals.

If this be the case, then it must be true that many persons come into the most intimate contact with the virus during an epizootic, which taken in connection with the extreme rareness of the disease in human beings argues a marked insusceptibility on the part of mankind. Nevertheless, a number of cases have been reported in man, a few of which, chiefly in children, have resulted fatally. Most of the human cases have been acquired by drinking the milk of infected cattle and this seems the means of transmission most to be feared, although more intimate contact with diseased animals accounts for some of the cases.

Prevention of the disease in human subjects will therefore involve: The eradication of the epizootic by means directed against the diseased animals; the avoidance of the human consumption of all milk and unheated milk products known to come from diseased herds;

boiling or efficiently pasteurizing milk from herds which have been exposed to infection, and observing such measures as changing the clothing and disinfecting the hands after contact with diseased animals.

The case of foot-and-mouth disease affords another illustration of the fact that for municipal supplies boiled and pasteurized milk are the only fresh forms which can be relied upon to be without danger as regards the transmission of infectious diseases to man. Milk containing the germs of this disease could readily be dispensed from the best regulated dairy before those in charge were aware of the existence of the infection.

While the effort to obtain clean milk should not be relaxed in any particular in the interest of health and of common decency, it is evident that the most rigid measures which can be devised must at times be inadequate to prevent the introduction of the germs of infectious diseases to the product, and that supplementary treatment, the most practicable being pasteurization, is a necessity.

In referring to pasteurization of milk supplies, it is essential that efficient pasteurization be stipulated, by which is meant heating of the whole body of the milk to such a temperature and for such a length of time as is necessary to kill the nonspore-bearing germs of disease, under such official supervision as may be necessary to secure the end desired.

The disease in man is characterized by a febrile period lasting for a few days, followed by the appearance of vesicles on the mucous membranes of the mouth and more rarely of the nose and throat. Similar lesions are sometimes noted on the hands and occasionally on the feet or other portions of the skin surface. The vesicles soon rupture, leaving ulcerating surfaces which may be rather obstinate in healing. Owing in part to the loss of appetite, but more to the difficulty of eating, there is often a considerable loss of flesh. In fatal cases extensive lesions of the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, serous membranes, and heart muscle have been found at autopsy.

EFFORTS TO CURB THE MISUSE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS DESIGNED TO RESTRICT OR TO REGULATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF OPIUM, COCA, AND OTHER NARCOTIC OR HABIT-FORMING DRUGS.

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The abuse of narcotic drugs involves economic, social, moral, and public health questions that collectively constitute one of the most serious problems before the people of the United States to-day. Drug addiction, in its various forms, has reached gigantic propor-